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ists. He shows the close relation between socialism and the philosophical theories, such as pragmatism, the social expansion of religion and even with the present notion of God. Many of the modern attitudes have been brought about by the development of socialistic theory. This book is exceptionally suggestive and interesting.

Mr. H. G. Wells in *The Discovery of the Future* develops an interesting theory. He states that as our knowledge increases it will not be at all foolish to suppose that we can clearly foretell and regulate the future of society.

With the exception, therefore, of Bebel's *Life*, which gives us a very valuable glimpse of the man who has been such a large factor in German political life in the last forty years, and the book by William English Walling, there is little of real value in this group of books. It is to be hoped that Herr Bebel will bring his autobiography down to date and that Mr. Walling will continue to give us such careful and suggestive analyses of socialistic thought.

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BEER, G. L. *The Old Colonial System*. (2 vols.). Pp. xxiii, 736. Price \$2.00 each. New York: Macmillan Company. 1912.

In two previous volumes Mr. Beer has dealt with the old colonial system of Great Britain in the period of its origins (1578-1660) and in the critical period of the Seven Years' War (1754-1765). In the present work he covers the period from 1660 to 1688 and supplies the most complete information which has been given to us concerning the actual working of the policy of constructing a self-sufficient empire by means of the acts of trade and navigation. The high standard set by the author in his previous works (noticed in *THE ANNALS*, xxxi, 514; xxxv, 186) is fully maintained, and the carefully selected results of extensive research are placed before us with judicial impartiality in a narrativetold with directness and simplicity.

Each of the two volumes deals with a distinct aspect of the subject. The first is concerned with the colonial policy and its application by the imperial organs of control. A masterly exposition of the principles which guided Charles II and the statesmen of the restoration era in their colonial activities shows that colonial expansion was made more distinctly subordinate to commercial progress than in the previous period. The colonies, consequently, were no longer looked upon as an outlet for the surplus population of England, and emigration from England to the colonies was regarded as a positive evil, unless countervailing advantages could be derived from the colonies. The West Indies and the continental colonies south of Maryland fulfilled these conditions, since they formed complementary parts of the self-sufficient economic empire, which was the ideal of contemporary statesmen, and since they helped to swell the receipts of the English exchequer through import duties which were erroneously believed to be paid by the colonies. The northern colonies, on the other hand, failed to meet these paramount economic requirements, since their products largely paralleled those of England. But while English statesmen ap-

plied restrictive measures to the colonies to secure these desired results, they intended to give compensating advantages, and in large measure succeeded. A detailed and thorough analysis of the working of the acts of trade and navigation in their commercial and fiscal aspects, which is by far the best known to the reviewer, shows that England not only provided the essential naval defense at her own expense, but also gave the colonies to her own disadvantage a monopoly of the English market for the most important enumerated commodities. Such regulations, however, necessarily involved some clashing of interests, which is illustrated effectively by the quarrels between the African Company and the plantation owners of the West Indies described in an illuminating chapter on The Slave-Trade and the Plantation Colonies. A chapter on the imperial administrative machinery does not add proportionately to our knowledge of the central organs of government, because that field has been more thoroughly exploited than the others by the author's predecessors; but on the work of the local agents of the central government there is abundant new information.

The second volume is occupied with a survey of the commercial development of each colony which serves as an essential background for an estimate of the effects of the acts of trade and navigation on the colonies. The evidence on this question is of the most conflicting nature. Since reliable statistics are exceedingly few, most of it consists of complaints of the colonists who were prejudiced against the acts and of reports of officials who were prejudiced against the colonists. Much of it, furthermore, is deliberately exaggerated. Mr. Beer places the evidence of both sides before us, as no previous historian has done, weighs it with scholarly insight and critical acumen, and deduces conclusions which appear to be essentially sound. On the West Indies, for example, where the staple was sugar, the acts of trade were a real burden, since England at this time consumed only part of the colonial product, and the monopoly of the English market did not compensate for the handicap placed on the sugar that had to compete in the continental market. In Massachusetts, however, the acts "in no wise interfered with the colony's fundamental economic activities" (p. 307). The extent of the opposition offered by any colony is apparently no index of the degree of restriction which the acts imposed. In Barbados and Jamaica the effects of the acts were practically the same, but in Barbados the outcry against them was long and loud, since the imposition of the acts coincided in point of time with a slump in the sugar market due to overproduction, while in Jamaica there was scarcely a complaint, since the English planters there had known no other system. With regard to the enforcement of the acts there is likewise great variation from colony to colony. Mr. Beer concludes that in most colonies they were fairly well enforced and in a few well enforced. Only in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Georgia, and Newfoundland were they extensively evaded, and the trade of the last three colonies was so small that the evasions there were comparatively unimportant.

The materials for the work are drawn from a wide variety of sources, but the bulk of them comes from the official records of the various organs concerned with colonial administration, now deposited mainly in the Public Record Office. These have been little utilized hitherto, and consequently the liberal summaries and citations therefrom in the copious foot-notes are of no slight value

Even the text is filled with detailed illustrations of the working of the colonial system taken from this source; but the narrative is never encumbered by them. The casual reader will not find his attention distracted from the main theme; the historical student will find a mass of well-chosen evidence from which he may draw his own conclusions.

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CHANNING, EDWARD. *A History of the United States*. Vol. III, *The American Revolution, 1761-1789*. Pp. 585. Price, \$2.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

The third volume of Professor Channing's *History of the United States* covers the difficult period of the Revolution. To treat with objectivity and with a correct sense of proportion the events that led up to the Revolution, to subordinate the unimportant details of the seven years of fighting, and to select and discuss with appropriate emphasis the causes that necessitated and brought about the adoption of the Constitution, is a task requiring the highest order of ability on the part of any historian. Professor Channing has met the test successfully.

The author's general concept of the revolutionary period is summarized on the first page of this volume: "Commercialism, the desire for advantage and profit in trade and industry, was at the bottom of the struggle between England and America; the immutable principles of human association were brought forward to justify colonial resistance to British selfishness. The governing classes of the old country wished to exploit the American colonists for their own use and behoof; the Americans desired to work their lands and carry on their trade for themselves." This view of the Revolution may, however, be criticised as attributing selfishness only to Great Britain. The colonists were not more altruistic than the mother country. There was a desire in America for home rule in order that two ends might be accomplished—that industry and commerce might be carried on without restriction or taxation, and that popular government might be maintained. The colonists sought economic freedom and home rule; the British government sought trade advantage and the establishment of an imperial policy. As events turned out, the states that succeeded the colonies in America did not achieve popular government immediately as the result of the success of the Revolution; until 1830, the state governments were, for the most part, aristocratic. Great Britain fought the war in pursuance of a general imperial policy; and, while trade extension was one strong reason why she was so zealous in defending the imperial policy, there were other motives, political rather than economic, that influenced her actions.

Professor Channing is American in feeling and is more critical of British than of American policies and leaders. He has not become the defender of Great Britain's treatment of the colonies or of her policy in carrying on the Revolution, as have some recent historians of the colonial and revolutionary